

REMARKS

There remain pending in this application claims 1-16 and 18-20, of which claims 1 and 19 are independent. No claims have been added or canceled.

In view of the above amendments and following remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the above application is respectfully sought.

Initially, the Examiner will appreciate that Applicants have amended the claims in a manner believed to address the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicants have amended claims 1 and 19 to clarify that the second stacking portion is arranged detachable from and attachable to the first stacking portion. In addition, claim 12 has been amended to recite that the protruded portion of which angular and ridge portions are rounded has a surface which is smooth. Applicants respectfully submit that in view of the disclosure, and particularly in view of the disclosure in the specification at page 52, line 17 *et seq.*, and elsewhere, this claim language is clear and meets all the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully sought.

The invention as now set forth in independent claim 1 is directed to a sheet supplying apparatus which supplies a sheet to be recorded on by recording means. The apparatus comprises a first stacking portion and a second stacking portion, the second stacking portion arranged to be detachable from and attachable to the first stacking portion, and the second stacking portion including a base member for mounting to the first stacking portion and a tray arranged in a movable manner to the base member via guide groove, for supporting a sheet as stacked. The invention provides for a supplying roller that supplies the sheet toward the recording means, and the supplying roller does so while in contact with a recording surface of the sheet stacked in the

first stacking portion, or a recording surface of the sheet stacked in the second stacking portion. The supplying roller supplies the sheet stacked on the first stacking portion when the tray moves upstream in a sheet supplying direction along the guide groove and supplies a sheet stacked on the second stacking portion when the tray moves downstream in the sheet supplying direction along the guide groove.

Applicants invention thus provides a sheet supplying apparatus with a second stacking portion arranged detachable from and attachable to a first stacking portion together with a supplying roller which supplies the sheet toward the recording means while in contact with the recording surface of the sheet. The sheet is fed from either the first or the second stacking portion and the supplying roller supplies the sheet stacked in the first stacking portion when the tray moves upstream in a sheet supplying direction and supplies the sheet stacked in the second stacking portion when the tray moves downstream in a sheet supplying direction. As a result of this combination of features and this configuration, Applicants have provided for a sheet supplying apparatus that can supply a plurality of types of sheets while maintaining a compact structure.

Trask et al. relates to a mechanism for automatically handling envelopes and paper sheets. It has a first tray for holding a stack of paper sheets and that is mountable to a window and a second tray provided for holding a stack of envelopes and that is also mountable in the window. More specifically, in Trask et al. a paper sheet tray 26 and an envelope tray 34 are detachable from a printer. If it is desired to feed a sheet from the paper sheet tray 26, feed roller 60 contacts a topmost sheet of a stack 28 positioned on the tray 26 and is rotated in the counter-clockwise direction, and if it is desired to feed an envelope from the envelope tray 34, a feed roller 48

contacting with the lower most envelope of the tray 34 is rotated in a clockwise direction at the same time that the central feed roller 60 is rotated in the clockwise direction. Trask et al. does not teach or suggest a supply roller that supplies a sheet while in contact with a recording surface of the sheet stacked in the first stacking portion, or a recording surface of the sheet stacked in the second stacking portion. Moreover, Trask et al. does not teach or suggest that aspect of Applicants' invention which provides structure for enabling for different types of sheets to be supplied by the same feed roller by moving the second stacking portion in relation to the first stacking portion. Applicants, therefore, respectfully submit that Trask et al. neither teaches nor suggests the invention as set forth in claims 1 and 19.

The Hewlett Packard Office Jet 600 Series device does provide for a first stacking portion and a second stacking portion. However, this device does not contain or disclose that such second stacking portion be detachable from and attachable to the first stacking portion, or that tray of the second stacking portion move in the sheet supplying direction.

Jang also suffers from similar shortcomings. Jang does not teach or suggest a second stacking portion arranged to be detachable from and attachable to the first stacking portion or that the tray of the second stacking portion move the sheets in the sheet supplying direction.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the three applied references, whether taken individually or in combination, do not teach or suggest the invention as now recited in each of independent claims 1 and 19. Accordingly, each of claims 1 and 19 is believed to be patentable over the art of record.

The remaining claims in the above application are dependent claims which depend either directly or indirectly from claims 1 or 19 and are, therefore, patentable over the art of record for

the reasons noted above with respect to claims 1 and 19. In addition, each recites features of the invention still further distinguishing it from the applied art. Favorable and independent consideration thereof is respectfully sought.

Applicants respectfully submit that all outstanding matters in the above application have been addressed and that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the above application is respectfully sought.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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